Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 165468

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 18177 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
INFO USUN, ALL EC CAPITALS, MOSCOW, ATHENS, OTTAWA, ANKARA,
USNATO, OSLO 07 JUN 78

QUOTE S E C R E T PARIS 18177

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, UN, FR
SUBJ: FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE
VERIFICATION AGENCY

REFS: A. STATE 138541. B. PARIS 16200 NOTAL.

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBOFF OUTLINED TO DE LA FERRIERE
US DIFFICULTIES WITH FRENCH SATELLITE VERIFICATION
AGENCY PROPOSAL. DE LA FERRIERE EXHIBITED COMPREHENSION
OF US POSITION BUT NOTED THAT SINCE THIS IS AN
INITIATIVE OF PRESIDENT GISCARD, THERE IS NO QUESTION
THAT GOF WILL ABANDON ITS PROPOSAL IN DRAFT PROGRAM
OF ACTION AT SSOD. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JUNE 7, PURSUANT TO REF A INSTRUCTION, EMBOFF
CALLED ON JACQUES DE LA FERRIERE, CHIEF OF PACTS AND
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DISARMAMENT AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, TO REITERATE US
DIFFICULTIES WITH INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE VERIFICATION
AGENCY PROPOSAL. DE LA FERRIERE HAS JUST RETURNED
FROM SSOD AND NATO SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON.

3. EMBOFF NOTED THAT US HAD RAISED OBJECTIONS IN EACH
OF SEVERAL CONSULTATIONS IN RECENT MONTHS, POINTING

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OUT THAT THESE ISSUES DIRECTLY INVOLVE US SECURITY INTERESTS. US HAD BRACKETED GOF LANGUAGE IN DRAFT PROGRAM OF ACTION AT SSOD, WHEREAS DUTCH LANGUAGE--WHICH DID NOT MAKE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE VERIFICATION--WAS NOT BRACKETED. US DEMARCHE ON EC-9 STATEMENT FOLLOWED BY ONLY ONE WEEK OUR RECEIPT FROM NON-FRENCH SOURCE OF DRAFT EC STATEMENT FOR SSOD. EMBOFF THEN REVIEWED POINTS A-F OF REF A, HANDING DE LA FERRIERE AN AIDE-MEMOIRE CONTAINING THE TEXT OF THESE STATEMENTS. EMBOFF CONTINUED (PER PARA 4 OF REF A) THAT US OPPOSES PROPOSALS, AT SSOD OR IN ANY OTHER FORUM, FOR AN INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE VERIFICATION AGENCY.

4. DE LA FERRIERE RESPONDED THAT US REPS HAD MADE CLEAR MISGIVINGS ABOUT GOF PROPOSALS DURING SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS IN RECENT MONTHS. GOF UNDERSTOOD, BUT WAS NOT CONVINCED BY US ARGUMENTS, BELIEVING THAT INEVITABLY SATELLITE RECONNAISSANCE CAPABILITIES WILL SPREAD TO MORE AND MORE COUNTRIES.

5. DE LA FERRIERE WENT ON THAT "SURPRISE" EXPRESSED BY FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD ON MAY 22 (REF B) AND BY AMBASSADOR DE LABOULAYE IN WASHINGTON WAS NOT SO MUCH AT US OPPOSITION TO SATELLITE VERIFICATION PROPOSAL, BUT MORE AT US INTERVENTION WITH OTHER

MEMBERS OF NINE. THIS WENT TO MORE BASIC QUESTION OF US VOICE IN PROCEEDINGS AND DECLARATIONS OF NINE WHICH HAS BEEN RAISED FROM TIME TO TIME.

6. IN CONCLUSION DE LA FERRIERE SAID GOF NOTED US VIEWS BUT THAT SINCE PRESIDENT GISCARD HAS PUBLICLY ESPOUSED WORLD SATELLITE VERIFICATION AGENCY PROPOSAL, THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT GOF WILL ABANDON THE PROPOSITION IN THE SSOD DRAFT PROGRAM OF ACTION. DE LA FERRIERE SUGGESTED CONTINUED CONTACTS IN NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, AND PARIS SO AS TO MINIMIZE PUBLIC DIFFERENCES.

7. COMMENT: SINCE GISCARD HAS PUBLICLY ENDORSED THIS PROPOSAL SINCE JANUARY, DE LA FERRIERE IS CORRECT IN RULING OUT POSSIBLE GOF REVERSALS. DE LA FERRIERE WAS REALISTIC IN TONE AND MANNER WHILE FRANKLY ACKNOWLEDGING OUR DIFFERENCES. HE OBVIOUSLY WOULD PREFER TO AVOID A PUBLIC AIRING OF DIFFERENCES.
HARTMAN

UNQUOTE VANCE

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